



SR0545

LRB099 12348 MST 35477 r

1

SENATE RESOLUTION

2

WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of Irene (nee Witek) Charcut of North Chicago, who passed away on May 9, 2015; and

3

4

5

WHEREAS, Irene Charcut was born in Chicago on August 24, 1919 to Michael and Angela (nee Michna) Witek; she attended Holy Rosary School and Waukegan High School; and

6

7

8

WHEREAS, Irene Charcut was employed at Sager Lock and Johnson Motors prior to enlisting in the Women's Army Air Corps in 1943; as a non-commissioned officer, she volunteered for overseas duty in 1945 and served in England and France; her nights in London were spent in underground shelters listening to air raid alarms and buzz bombs; after completing 3 years, she was discharged in 1946; she returned to Johnson Motors and attended Lake County Business College; she married Edward Charcut on August 15, 1948; and

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

WHEREAS, Irene Charcut's community service includes: Past President and longtime member of Catholic Women's Club; the School Board at Holy Family Parish; the Parish Council, Spiritual Life Commission, and choir at Queen of Peace Church; volunteer with the American Cancer Society and Chair of Annual Fund Drives; volunteer wheeler at Veteran's Hospital Chapel

18

19

20

21

22

1 (more than 3,300 hours); minister of communion to the sick and
2 homebound; Greater North Chicago Senior Citizen Club; Post 1122
3 American Legion; and Polish Legion of American Veterans, USA;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, For decades on a pro bono basis, Irene Charcut
6 assisted thousands of Polish immigrants who lovingly called her
7 "ciocia" (auntie); she also served as an interpreter at a local
8 bank for 17 years; she became the first female Lake County
9 World War II veteran to participate in an Honor Flight to
10 Washington, D.C. in October of 2014; during the flight's mail
11 call, she received 140 letters thanking her for her service; in
12 November of 2014, the North Chicago City Council honored Irene
13 with their Senior Citizen Hall of Fame award in recognition of
14 more than 70 years of exemplary contributions and volunteer
15 service to the local community; and

16 WHEREAS, Irene Charcut was preceded in death by her
17 parents; her husband of 37 years, Edward Charcut; her brother,
18 Joseph Witek; and her sister and brother-in-law, Lottie and
19 Matthew Siwula; and

20 WHEREAS, Irene Charcut is survived by her children, Paul
21 (Mary Jo), Maria (Doug) Rector, Peter, and Philip (Pam); her 8
22 grandchildren, Nicholas (Kinlin), Jolene, and Chaz (Brittany)
23 Charcut, Catherine, Mary, and James Rector, and Andrew and Cory

1 Charcut; her great-grandchildren, Brady, Beason, Layla, and
2 Cain; her foster children, John Burby, Mary Ann (Burby) Davis,
3 and Patty (Burhman) Thompson; therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL
5 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
6 Irene Charcut, and extend our sincere condolences to her
7 family, friends, and all who knew and loved her; and be it
8 further

9 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
10 presented to the family of Irene Charcut as an expression of
11 our deepest sympathy.